THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • AUGUST 04, 2025 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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PM MODI, AMIT SHAH MEET PRESIDENT SEPARATELY

This was the first meeting of the PM with the President after his recent visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives

MEETING AMID LOGJAM IN PARLIAMENT ON S.I.R.

The meetings came against the backdrop of the logjam in Parliament over the Opposition's demand for a discussion on the poll roll revision exercise in Bihar ahead of assembly elections. Except discussions in both Houses on Operation Sindoor, Parliament has seen no business since Monsoon session started on July 21

PRESIDENT'S RULE EXTENSION IN MANIPUR

- Sources said Shah's meeting could be regarding a resolution on President's rule extension in Manipur, which the Lok Sabha passed last week but the Rajya Sabha is yet to discuss it
- Shah's meeting with the President could also be related to the likely Cabinet reshuffle, sources said | P7

July 21

MEETINGS COME 2 WEEKS AFTER JAGDEEP DHANKAR RESIGNED AS VICE PRESIDENT

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Mahadevappa sparks row, says Tipu laid KRS dam foundation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

KARNATAKA Social Welfare and Mysuru district in-charge minister **HC Mahadevappa** sparked a controversy on Sunday, claiming that Tipu Sultan, not Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who first laid the foundation for the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) dam. His remarks came on August 3, the death anniversary of Wadiyar — who is widely credited for his visionary contributions to Mysuru's development, including the construction of KRS dam.

After laying the foundation stone for the Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan in Srirangapatna, Mahadevappa said, "Tipu Sultan laid the foundation stone, but no one dares to acknowledge this. There is clear evidence of this on the main gate of KRS dam." He said, "Those who don't understand history cannot create history. Tipu was a secular ruler. There's a mosque and a temple next to each other. Allahu Akbar is heard in the mosque, and temple bells ring at the same time. Tipu listened to both with calmness and acceptance."

Praising contributions of the ruler, Mahadevappa said said he abolished the exploitative Devadasi system, resisted giving land to the rich, made Gubbi and Harihara commercial centres and introduced sericulture to India. "Tipu was a great freedom fighter who fought the British. The palace of Mysuru kingdom was located in Srirangapatna," he said.

EC issues notice to Tejashwi on voter card slur

To RJD leader's claims of fraud in poll roll, EC asks him to submit his EPIC card

RAMASHANKAR & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna/New Delhi

A day after leader of Opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav claimed that his name was missing from the draft electoral roll, Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday issued a notice to him asking him to 'hand over for investigation' a voter ID card that he claimed to be in possession of despite the EC not issuing it officially.

Tejashwi on Saturday had demonstrated an online query, with the EPIC number, to claim that his name was missing in the draft electoral rolls published as part of special intensive revision (SIR) and, upon rebuttal from authorities concerned, alleged that his voter ID card number was 'changed'.

In a letter addressed to the former deputy CM, the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Patna Sadar-cum-electoral registration officer for Digha assembly constituency said, "Our preliminary investigation suggests that the EPIC number you mentioned at the press conference on August 2 was not issued officially. You are therefore requested to hand over the EPIC card in original for detailed investigation."

EC says PC's views false

Former Union minister P Chidambaram on X said 6.5 lakh migrants were being registered as voters in Tamil Nadu after 65 lakh were disenfranchised in Bihar. The EC dismissed his claims as false

The RJD leader, thereafter, alleged that his EPIC number had been "changed", but District Magistrate Thiyagaraja S M repudiated his claim."The EPIC number in the electoral rolls is the one that was submitted by the leader of the opposition in his affidavit in 2020 assembly polls. If he has another EPIC card with another number as well, it is a matter of investigation," the DM said.

In Patna, spokespersons Ajay Alok (BJP), Neeraj Kumar (JDU) and Rajesh Bhatt (LJP) demanded that a case be registered against the RJD leader. At a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra asked,"If a senior party leader like Yadav carries two voter IDs, what will the party workers be doing?"

Army officer booked for hitting SpiceJet staff

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE Jammu and Kashmir police have booked a senior officer of the Indian Army for allegedly assaulting four SpiceJet staff at the Srinagar airport last week, causing a spinal fracture to an airline staff.

The Army has pledged full cooperation in the investigation while the airline has started the process to place the army officer on the no-fly list.

The incident took place on July 26 when Lt Colonel Ritesh Kumar Singh, posted at High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, was trying to board SpiceJet flight SG-386 from Srinagar to Delhi allegedly with excess cabin baggage.

Videograb of the passenger assaulting a SpiceJet employee at Srinagar airport

"The passenger was carrying two pieces of cabin baggage weighing a total of 16 kg, more than double the permitted limit of 7 kg," read a SpiceJet statement. It said the passenger became aggressive when the airline staff flagged the excess baggage and asked him to pay the applicable charges. The army officer refused and forcefully entered the aerobridge without completing the boarding process in violation of aviation security protocols. The officer was escorted back to the gate by a CISF official.

"At the gate, the passenger grew aggressive and physically assaulted members of the SpiceJet ground staff," SpiceJet said, adding the officer kicked, punched and beat its employees with a queue stand.

Visuals of the assault, which went viral on social media, showed the officer charging at the ground staff. A SpiceJet employee could be seen bleeding from his face while another injured staff member was seen crying in pain.

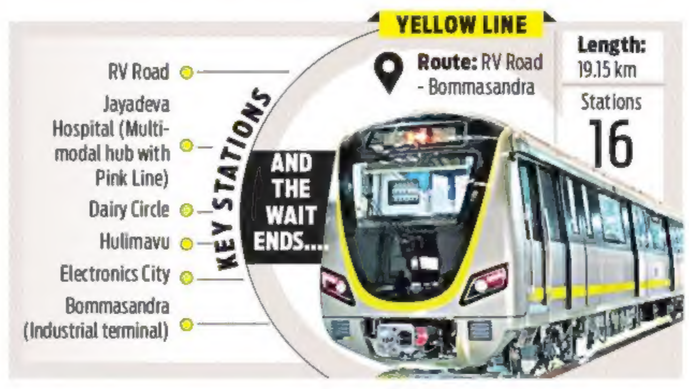
An FIR was filed at Budgam police station under Sections 115(2), 126(2), 351(2), and 131 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Wait ends! PM to flag off much-delayed Namma Metro Yellow Line on August 10

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited 19.15 km Yellow Line of Namma Metro, connecting RV Road to Bommasandra, on August 10. The PM will also lay the foundation stone for 44.65-km Phase 3 expansion of Metro, giving a major boost to Bengaluru's public transport network. The Yellow Line will have 16 stations providing connectivity between residential and commercial areas of South Bengaluru and IT hub of Electronics City and Bommasandra.

"I am pleased to announce that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India has kindly agreed to inaugurate the 19.15 km Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra of Bengaluru Metro with 16 stations at a cost of Rs 5,056.99 crore and lay the foundation stone of 44.65 km of Bengaluru Phase-3 at a cost of Rs 15,611 crore on August 10," according to an announcement from the Office of Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar.



The Yellow Line, which was delayed due to several reasons, including shortage of trains, is expected to reduce traffic on the busy Hosur Road once open. It will also provide seamless access to Electronics City and likely reduce traffic congestion at the infamous Silk Board Junction.

The Phase 3 expansion will add 44.65 km of new metro lines and will have 31 stations. The two corridors of the project will connect JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura and Hosahalli to Kadabagere, passing through Gorguntepalya, Magadi Road and Mysuru Road, and are expected to be completed by the end of 2029. Phase 3, also known as Orange Line, will serve underserved areas along Magadi Road and western portion of Outer Ring Road. P2

EXPRESS READ

Anti-Narcotics Task Force formed in K'taka

Bengaluru: The Karnataka govt has set up an Anti-Narcotics Task Force to curb rising drug menace, with a sanctioned strength of 66 personnel. An ADGP-rank officer will head it, which will report to DGP (Cyber Command) | P3

A day later, Prajwal is prisoner number 15528

Bengaluru: Former MP Prajwal Revanna was assigned prisoner number 15528 and provided with a convict uniform at Bengaluru Central Jail on Sunday, a day after he was sentenced to life until death in a rape case | P4

Upa Lokayukta's visit leads to 26 transfers

Bengaluru: A surprise visit by Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa on May 26 resulted in transfer of 26 officials and suspension of four in Mandya district. He had taken up suo motu cognisance of irregularities, maladministration and corruption in Mandya | P3

Series on ice: Fitting final day awaits

TNIE in England
FIROZ MIRZA
@LONDON

THE weather Gods didn't want this series to end.

Not yet anyway. And, so, this mind-bending, narrative-shattering, finger-nail chewing five-match Test series will go into a 25th bum-squelching day. And who would blame them? It's been that kind of a series. A man with a broken finger came out to bowl. A man with a broken foot came out to bat. And, late on Sunday, a man with a dislocated shoulder, arm very much in a sling—Chris Woakes—was prepared to come out and bat.

In the middle, the Jamies, Smith and Overton, were involved in a dogfight against, really, a trio of heroic pacers who kept going and going and going. At least one of them had to take a painkilling injection. At least one of them wore a knee brace before discarding it because it was affecting their run-up. What's a couple of dodgy ligaments when a potential trade off is a famous come-from-behind win to level the series.

India go to bed needing four more wickets to ensure there is something tangible to show from Shubman Gill's first assignment as captain. England go to bed needing 35 more runs. And boy, was Sunday a right old scrap between two flawed sides giving it their all, their wounded bodies and tired minds ignoring the pain threshold. Harry Brook and Joe Root coruscating 195-run, thrill-a-minute stand had seemingly sucked out all the oxygen from the Indian team. But after they fell, India roared back. It's what has kept them alive going into the final day of a series that will long be remembered irrespective of the result.

India's Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj (C) celebrate Joe Root's wicket with teammates on Sunday | AP

Dip in production sees yelakki banana price climb to ₹120 per kg

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

AHEAD of Vara Mahalakshmi festival on August 8, bananas, especially the yelakki variety, have become expensive, selling at Rs 120-130 per kg, up from Rs 60-65 just a few days ago. But the festival is not the only reason, traders in Bengaluru said, pointing out that the price surge is because many farmers have not taken up the crop as they sustained severe losses over the last two years. Last year, the crop was first hit by lack of rain during the sowing season, and later, the remaining crop was damaged by heavy rain.

Even this year, farmers said, the rain pattern has been erratic. "There was no rain when the crop needed it the most. Many farmers who had cultivated bananas uprooted the plants. Continuous rain caused black spots on the remaining fruits,"said Kantharaj from APMC Yard Association. P5

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HEALING TOUCH

The doctor who charged ₹2 as consultation fee

JITHUL NARAYANAN @ Kannur

DR Ryru Gopal, better known as the 'two-rupee doctor', was more than just a healer. He touched hearts with his compassion and ethical approach. In an era when the medical profession has come to be viewed as a money-spinning machine, this doctor stood out. Dr Ryru passed away at his home in Thana, Kannur, in the wee hours on Sunday. He was 80.

After doing his MBBS from Kozhikode Medical College, Dr Ryru worked briefly in a hospital in Kannur before opening a clinic in Talap, where he served the community for 35 years before moving to Thana.

Dr RYRU GOPAL

Patients used to line up at his clinic, where Dr Ryru would see patients from 4:00 am onwards. On most days, he would see more than 200 patients.

He charged just ₹2 as consultation fee for nearly half a century, before raising it to ₹10.

Narayanan K, a resident of Kakkad, recounted how he would take the first bus to the clinic to get a token. "He used to prescribe quality medicine that was also pocket-friendly. It was perhaps his vast experience that made his very consultation feel like a form of healing in itself," he said.

Legend has it that bus services added a stop at Dr Ryru's clinic, near the police ground in Kannur town, to facilitate patients.

"Father always gave importance to the ethics of his profession, which he believed was a service and not a money-making business. He used to say that if you want to make money, then do some business," said his son Bala Gopal.

Dr Ryru is also survived by his wife, Sakuntala, and daughter, Vidhya Bharath.

"Many people visited his clinic solely to consult with him, believing that just speaking with him brought them a sense of comfort and reassurance. It was never his intention to make money and he dedicated himself to the service of humanity," said Indira P, deputy mayor of Kannur.

Ryru was a passionate animal lover who kept several pets, including dogs and cows. He personally tended to the cows, often milking them in the early morning hours.

For half a century, he charged only two rupees for consultations, making healthcare accessible to all

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan